

CHURCH OF GOD

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FIRST CHURCH OF GOD



GUTTED EDIFICE—Only the shell of the First Church of God at Fourteenth street and Third avenue remained as firemen were extinguishing the last embers of a blaze that broke out in the building's interior early Wednesday morning. The contents are a total loss.

Photo by Charles.

7-3-7-60

Church of God On Third Avenue Complete Loss

A two alarm fire that broke out in the early hours during Wednesday morning's snow-storm completely destroyed the 50-year-old First Church of God building at 1401 Third avenue.

The loss was valued at \$36,000. \$30,000 on the building and \$6,000 on the contents, according to fire department and insurance officials.

A woman in the area reportedly smelled smoke shortly before 4 a.m. and turned in the first alarm at 4:12. Assistant Fire Chief John Dolan turned in the second alarm at 4:17 a.m.

Dolan said he recognized the seriousness of the situation as his crews encountered a heavy blanket of smoke when they came within three blocks of the burning building.

The entire one-story frame building with ground-floor church school facilities, belfry tower and basement were completely destroyed or gutted. Only the outside walls remained standing. Firemen labeled the church a total loss.

Plan Investigation.

Although the blaze appeared to have been the hottest near the furnace, Fire Chief Norman Fesler said several days of sifting through the ashes will be required to reach an official determination of the cause.

It is believed the building was smoldering inside several hours before the blaze was actually discovered.

Mrs. Ronald G. Porter, a neighbor at 1400 Third avenue, said she was awakened at 4 o'clock by the sound of the approaching sirens. At that time, smoke was coming out of the building.

She reported her husband complained of smelling smoke at 11 p.m. Tuesday night when arriving home from his employment at the Visking Corp. However,

they noticed nothing amiss in the neighborhood and retired.

House Undamaged.

A residence next to the church reportedly escaped damage due to the protection offered by the outside walls that remained standing.

First Church of God officials estimated that the property was sold to their church "more than 25 years ago" when a new Trinity Methodist Church was built at 1209 North Nineteenth street.

Fire Department Pumper Companies 3, 7, 10, Truck 2 and Assistant Chief Dolan answered the first alarm with Chief Fesler arriving on the second alarm with Pumper Companies 5, 8 and Truck 3.

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Topping it off: Linda Baker covers lemon pies.



Tribune-Star/Bonnie Jeffery

Mixing it up: Dorothy Blade stirs up key ingredients.

IT'S AUG 19 1985

It's as easy as pie

Community Affairs File

Churches(WU)

Fresh ingredients are the key to cooking up

The women of the Saints Home Church of God in Christ have a secret — their lemon pie recipe!

Ann Ladd, initiator and coordinator of the annual Pie Sale Project, said the annual event is one of several fund-raising projects toward the ongoing building fund drive.

"Only fresh ingredients are used to make the pie filling; lemons, butter, corn starch and sugar," she pointed out. "We hope to

keep the recipe a secret!"

The women of the church work in groups of threes with various divisions of labor. The captains each donate 20 to 50 baked pie shells. The kids squeeze bushels of lemons and break and separate many dozens of eggs. Other groups pre-measure the dry ingredients.

The baking schedules are pre-arranged with the four church mothers: Ellen Robertson, Mary Sandifer, Lexia Dixon

and Dorothy Blade are on hand to assist in the operations.

The flaky pie crust is one of the selling points of the pie. "A flaky pie crust is essential to a good pie, and the women have the unfailing knack of making a flaky pie shell," Ladd said.

Robertson, Dorothy Morris and Bettie Natt handled the factory pie orders morning deliveries. Verna Ward and Virginia Rice made extra pie shells as they

were needed. The men of the church served as delivery men while Mary Bell served as route person.

Mary Flowers was high salesperson for this year's sale, with over 100 pie orders.

Many other projects have been developed and used successfully as fund raisers including rummage sales, barbecues, bake sales, car washes and bazaars.

A Men's Unity Work Project for the building fund is now being formed. The

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Tribune-Star/Bonnie Jeffery

Busy duo: Mary Moody, Mary Sandefur work in kitchen.

Community Affairs File

T S AUG 1 9 1985

lemon dessert

men will take odd jobs in their spare time for \$25 and up. These jobs include weed cutting, trash removal, cleaning of basements and small paint jobs, as well as other minor chores. Persons interested may telephone 234-2747.

In March 1984, the Saints Home Church of God in Christ membership moved from 2415 Eighth Ave., which had been the church location since the early 1920s, to 2210 N. 13th St., the former First Assembly of God Church.